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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2633  
Docket No.: 826.1656

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

Hiroshi NISHIMOTO

Serial No. 09/749,426

Group Art Unit: 2633

Confirmation No. 5685

Filed: December 28, 2000

Examiner: Agustin Bello

For: OPTICAL NODE DEVICE AND SIGNAL SWITCHING AND CONNECTION METHOD

**AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**SEP 03 2004**

**Technology Center 2600**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004, and having a period for response set to expire on July 1, 2004. A Petition for a two-month extension of time, along with the requisite fee for same, is filed concurrently herewith, thereby extending the period for response to September 1, 2004.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.